

## Why Washington State PTA Recommends a No Vote on IL26-001

Washington State PTA · November 2026 General Election

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### 1. This is not a choice between parents and schools

- Washington State PTA strongly supports parent involvement. Families should be informed, welcomed, and able to participate in their children's education.
- Parents already have important rights under Washington law. They can review curriculum and education records, talk with teachers, and take part in school and district decisions.
- The concern is how this initiative is written. WSPTA believes its specific rules would create new risks and confusion instead of improving cooperation between families and schools.

### 2. It could make it harder for some students to get help

- Students need trusted adults at school. If students believe private conversations with a counselor, nurse, or teacher will automatically be shared, some may stop asking for help.
- Not every child is safe at home. Automatic parent notification can put a student at greater risk when abuse, neglect, or another serious safety concern is involved.
- The initiative reduces room for professional judgment. School staff and child-welfare professionals need to be able to respond to the facts of a student's situation, especially in an emergency.

### 3. It creates legal confusion and new costs for schools

- Its records rules conflict with existing privacy laws. The initiative treats some medical and mental health records like ordinary school records, even though state and federal laws handle those records differently.
- Some requirements are unclear or difficult to carry out. For example, schools could be expected to know whether a medical arrangement affects a family's insurance or co-pay.
- Legal uncertainty costs money. Districts may have to spend limited education dollars on compliance, legal advice, and court cases instead of teachers, classrooms, and student support.

## 4. It would undo practical protections without offering a better solution

- It removes a convenient, one-stop list of family rights. Many rights would still exist elsewhere, but families could have to search through different state and federal laws to find them.
- It narrows some student safety protections. WSPTA is concerned about changes affecting students in shelters or host homes and students whose records may document abuse.
- Problems could be difficult to fix quickly. If voters approve the initiative, the Legislature generally could not amend it for two years without a two-thirds vote in both chambers.

**Bottom line:** WSPTA supports strong parent engagement, but believes IL26-001 is the wrong approach because it would reduce student safety and access to care, create conflicts in the law, and pull school resources away from classrooms. That is why Washington State PTA recommends voting No.